



**MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE
ACCOUNT - ARMENIA**
STATE NON-COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION

PRESS RELEASE

September 30, 2009

U.S. Government Provides 36 Million Dollars to Rehabilitate Pumping Stations

Yerevan, Armenia-On September 30, 2009 the Millennium Challenge Account - Armenia (MCA-Armenia) SNCO signed a contract with a French consortium - Farmex Technologies, Florian Lopez and Gaxieu Ingenerie – to rehabilitate 17 pumping stations as part of the MCA-Armenia’s Irrigation Infrastructure Project. In the presence of Armenia's Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of Territorial Administration, Armen Gevorgian, and senior officials of the U.S. and Armenian governments, the contract was signed by MCA-Armenia CEO Ara Hovsepyan and Farmex Chairman Nouredine Smali. These works represent the largest single contract under the Irrigation Infrastructure Project and play a significant role in helping to reduce rural poverty in Armenia by increasing the economic performance of its agricultural sector.

Rehabilitation of these 17 pumping stations will provide reliable irrigation water, increased electricity efficiency and improved agricultural productivity to over 182,000 beneficiaries in 100 communities throughout Ararat, Armavir, Aragatsotn, Gegharkunik, Tavush and Syunik marzes. Currently, over 31,000 hectares of arable land receive water from these pumping stations, which serve as the only source of irrigation, especially for household plots.

Additional works under the MCA-Armenia’s Irrigation Infrastructure will involve the rehabilitation of six main irrigation canals, construction of four gravity schemes, upgrading of tertiary irrigation systems in over 70 communities and improvements to the Ararat valley drainage system.

For more information regarding this event and the MCA-Armenia program, please visit:

www.mca.am

Millennium Challenge Account–Armenia (MCA–Armenia), a State Non-Commercial Organization established by the Government of Armenia, is responsible for overseeing the transparent implementation of the Compact signed between the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Government of Armenia.